

MAR 12 2007

PATENT  
137682 (SPLG 12553-1053)**Remarks**

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-27 are rejected. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-9 and 21-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,050,645) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious based on Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. (U.S. Patent 6,891,311) and further in view of Moore et al. (U.S. Patent 6,511,432). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Peterson et al. and Phelps et al. were described and discussed in Applicants' previous Amendment filed July 17, 2006. As noted in the Office Action (see page 3 of the January 11, 2007 Office Action), neither of these references teach the use of a coupling capacitor. Accordingly, because independent claims 1 and 21 both recite a "coupling capacitor," the rejection of these claims under Section 102 is not appropriate and should be withdrawn.

Moreover, Moore et al. teaches blocking capacitors 60 that provide isolation between the inputs and outputs of diode bridges 25 (column 4, lines 42-44). Essentially, the capacitors block the output DC level from the diode bridges 25. Thus, in operation the DC power signal is produced across the capacitor and the capacitor blocks the DC power signal from reaching the transducer (see, for example, claims 9 and 23 of Moore et al.). However, Moore et al. describes using an inductor to block the transducer excitation signal from reaching the preamplifier (see, for example, claims 7 and 21 of Moore et al.). In contrast, the coupling capacitor of the various embodiments of the invention protect the signal processor from the transmit signal voltage (see, e.g., application as filed, page 24, paragraph 0087). The Moore et al. teaches the use of an inductor for protecting the processing components, not a capacitor. Thus, Peterson et al. alone or in combination with Phelps et al. and Moore et al. does not describe or suggest circuitry as recited in claim 1 and the method as recited in claim 21.

PATENT  
137682 (SPLG 12553-1053)

Claims 2-9 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-9 are likewise patentable over Peterson et al. alone or in combination with Phelps et al. and Moore et al. for at least the same reasons set forth above.

Claims 22-27 depend from independent claim 21. When the recitations of claims 22-27 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 21, Applicants submit that dependent claims 22-27 are likewise patentable over Peterson et al. alone or in combination with Phelps et al. and Moore et al. for at least the same reasons set forth above.

Claims 10-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. and further in view of Moore et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Peterson et al., Phelps et al. and Moore et al. are described and discussed in more detail above or in Applicants' previous Amendment.

Independent claim 10 recites an ultrasound probe comprising transceiver circuitry comprising "a transmit section output coupled through receive signal blocking circuitry and a coupling capacitor to transmit transducer elements comprising a transmit aperture." Peterson et al. alone or in combination with Phelps et al. and Moore et al. fails to describe or suggest such a probe.

As discussed in more detail above in connection with claim 1, Peterson et al., Phelps et al. and Moore et al., alone or in combination, do not include circuitry having any type of decoupling or coupling capacitors. Thus, Peterson et al. alone or in combination with Phelps et al. or Moore et al. does not describe or suggest a probe as recited in claim 10.

Claims 11-16 depend from independent claim 10. When the recitations of claims 11-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent

PATENT  
137682 (SPLG 12553-1053)

claims 11-16 are likewise patentable over Peterson et al. in combination with Phelps et al. and Moore et al. for at least the same reasons set forth above.

Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. and further in view of Moore et al. and Larson, III (U.S. Patent 5,229,933). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Peterson et al., Phelps et al. and Moore et al. are described and discussed in more detail above or in Applicants' previous Amendment. Even from a cursory reading of Larson, III, this reference fails to make up for the deficiencies in the Peterson et al., Phelps et al. and Moore et al. references. Further, claims 17 and 18 depend from independent claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are likewise patentable over the combination of Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al., Moore et al. and Larson, III based at least on the dependency of these claims from claim 10.

Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. and further in view of Moore et al. and Fraser (U.S. Patent 6,375,617). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

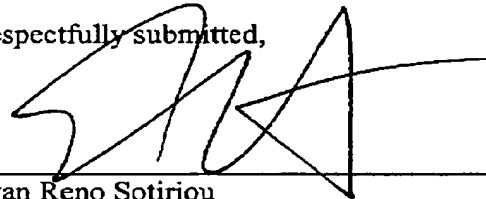
Peterson et al., Phelps et al. and Moore et al. are described and discussed in more detail above or in Applicants' previous Amendment. Even from a cursory reading of Fraser, this reference fails to make up for the deficiencies in the Peterson et al., Phelps et al. and Moore et al. references. Further, claims 19 and 20 depend from independent claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are likewise patentable over the combination of Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al., Moore et al. and Fraser based at least on the dependency of these claims from claim 10.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention and all of the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance and the rejections should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order

PATENT  
137682 (SPLG 12553-1053)

to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Reno Sotiriou', written over a horizontal line.

Evan Reno Sotiriou  
Registration No. 46,247  
THE SMALL PATENT LAW GROUP LLP  
611 Olive Street  
Suite 1611  
St. Louis, MO 63101